

## Message Text

SECRET

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ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 SS-15 SP-02 PM-04 L-03

INR-07 INRE-00 /046 W

-----116360 282055Z /63 L

O 281803Z JUN 77

FM AMEMBASSY NASSAU

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9469

S E C R E T NASSAU 0895

FOR ARA/CAR

E.O. 11652: XGDS-3

TAGS: PINR, PINS, MPOL, BF

SUBJ: INTERDICTION OPERATION: ANGUILA CAY FUEL CACHE

REF: NASSAU 0881; STATE 144699

1. CONVERSATIONS WITH ASST. POLICE

COMMISSIONER PAUL THOMPSON

AND PERM SEC MINEXTAFF ORIS RUSSELL THIS MORNING REVEALED THAT CUSTOMS REQUEST FOR COOPERATION IN DEALING WITH FUEL CACHE ON ANGUILA CAY (CONVEYED TO BAHAMIAN POLICE ON FRIDAY) HAS NOT BEEN ACTED UPON AND THAT NO DECISION, EITHER NEGATIVE OR POSITIVE, HAS BEEN MADE BY MINEXTAFF. AS DEPT AWARE, CUSTOMS' REQUEST WAS TO BE GIVEN AUTHORITY BY RESPONSIBLE GCOB OFFICIAL TO DESTROY OR OTHERWISE DISPOSE OF FUEL ON ANGUILA AT MOST OPPORTUNE TIME I.E. AFTER THE LAST RECONNOITER OF ANGUILA CAY BY ANTI-CASTRO OPERATIVES PRIOR TO THEIR PROCEEDING WITH MISSION. ACCORDING TO CUSTOMS AGENT BOWEN THAT PERMISSION WAS GRANTED "IN SO MANY WORDS" ON FRIDAY BY COMMISSIONER OF BAHAMAS POLICE SALATHIEL THOMPSON. HOWEVER, ASST. COMMISSIONER PAUL THOMPSON, WHO SAT IN ON MEETING, STATED THIS MORNING THAT, TO THE CONTRARY, NO PERMISSION WAS GRANTED AND THAT POLICE MUST BE GIVEN GO AHEAD BY MINEXTAFF WHICH THEY HAVE NOT RECEIVED.

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WM IN SUBSEQUENT CONVERSATION WITH RUSSELL HE STATED THAT NO AUTHORIZATION HAS BEEN GIVEN TO POLICE BECAUSE HIS MINISTRY HAS RECEIVED NO SUCH REQUEST FROM POLICE. WHILE THIS RUN AROUND MIGHT POSSIBLY STEM FROM BUREAUCRATIC PROBLEMS WITHIN THE GOVERNMENT WE SERIOUSLY DOUBT THIS TO BE THE CASE IN THIS INSTANCE. THIS IS PARTICULARLY SO GIVEN

RUSSELL'S ASSERTION THAT DELAYS THUS FAR HAVE STEMMED  
LARGELY FROM BAHAMIAN "...SUSPICIONS THAT WE HOPE TO STAGE  
ENTIRE OPERATION IN BAHAMIAN TERRITORY SO THAT IF THERE  
ARE ANY SLIP UPS BAHAMIAN RATHER THAN AMERICAN AUTHORITIES  
WOULD SHOULDER BLAME." (WHILE PARANOIA OF THIS NATURE IS  
CERTAINLY NOTHING NEW, AND OBVIOUSLY REFLECTS THE FEELINGS  
OF RUSSELL'S BOSS ADDERLEY, IT HAS NEVER TO OUR KNOWLEDGE,  
BEEN SO CANDIDLY EXPRESSED.)

3. RUSSELL WENT ON TO ASK THAT THIS OR ANY SUBSEQUENT REQUESTS  
BE MADE DIRECTLY TO HIM FROM EMBASSY AND PREFERABLY IN  
WRITING SO AS TO AVOID CONFUSION. IN CONVERSATION WITH BOWEN  
THIS MORNING HE REITERATED THAT IT IS ESSENTIAL FOR CUSTOMS  
TO BE GIVEN ADVANCE AUTHORIZATION TO ENTER BAHAMIAN TERRITORY  
AT APPROPRIATE TIME TO DESTROY OR OTHERWISE DISPOSE OF  
FUEL. HE ALSO STATED THAT PLANS HAD BEEN LAID ON TO SEND  
CUSTOMS AGENTS TO ANGUILA CAY THIS AFTERNOON BY PRIVATELY  
OWNED VESSEL TO LOCATE CACHE AND TO KEEP A SURVEILLANCE ON  
IT. GIVEN RUSSELL'S AND ADDERLEY'S OBVIOUS SENSITIVITY TO  
ENTIRE OPERATION EMBASSY HAS REQUESTED THAT THOSE PLANS  
BE HELD IN ABEYANCE UNTIL A) EMBASSY RECEIVES DEPARTMENT'S  
AUTHORIZATION TO MAKE FORMAL REQUEST (INCLUDING THIS AND REQUEST  
OF FRIDAY) TO MINEXTAFF AND B) MINEXTAFF'S POSITIVE RESPONSE  
IS IN HAND. WHILE WE ARE FAR FROM SANGUINE AS TO RESPOND  
WE MIGHT RECEIVE WE ARE NEVERTHELESS STRONGLY OPPOSED TO  
ANY UNILATERAL ACTION ON THE PART OF CUSTOMS OR ANY ACTION  
SECRET

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BASED SOLELY ON ALLEGED GO AHEAD FROM BAHAMIAN POLICE.  
TAYLOR

SECRET

NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
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**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
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**Reference:** 77 NASSAU 881, 77 STATE 144699  
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**Review Content Flags:**  
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**TAGS:** PINR, PINS, MPOL, BF  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
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**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
22 May 2009  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009